



Task Force Falcon

Falcon Flier

Volume 4, Issue 4

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February 1, 2001



Sylejman Metushi, KPC doctor, assisted by a Ferizaj/Urosevac hospital nurse examines a baby during a recent MEDCAP in Ugzmana.

KPC, U.S. team up for MEDCAP

*Story and photo by
Capt. Alayne Cramer
Camp Bondsteel PAO*

Locals wrapped around the building as they tried to force themselves into the reception room of a small community center in Ugzmana recently. They gathered to receive medical care from U.S. and Kosovo Protection Corps doctors.

Medical soldiers of Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion visited Ugzmana to perform a joint Medical, Civilian Assistance Program with their KPC counterparts, the medical company from 106th Regional Task Group.

The event gave the KPC the training and experience it needs to conduct future MEDCAPs on their own.

"We conducted this MEDCAP in the hopes that one day the KPC can do it on their own," said Capt. Kathryn Hanna, company commander, Co. C. "We already gained quite a bit of respect with the local population just by

wearing the flag (U.S.) and our being around. We can support the KPC in that respect by bringing them with us and getting them out, and allowing people to see them. It just takes more contact with the local towns and then they can eventually launch out on their own."

MEDCAPs are short-term primary medical care missions that provide treatment for minor illnesses for the people of Kosovo. In the isolated village, 70 patients were treated, well above the 30-50 patients expected, she said.

Company C is the medical company for the FSB and normally conducts MEDCAPs for towns located around Camp Bondsteel, the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion's sector, the Greek sector and towns in the Russian sector. The medical company from the 106th RTG has the responsibility for providing aid to the KPC kaserne in Ferizaj/Urosevac.

Company C provided a doctor and physicians' assistant. The KPC provided two doctors and the detachment commander, Agim Bytyci, for the event. Medical soldiers were

See MEDCAP on Page 5...

Surgery takes on double roll

*Story by
Sgt. Thorin Sprandel
Camp Monteith PAO*

When U.S. and Kosovo Albanian doctors performed an operation to repair Serbian Dragica Stanomirovic's fractured right hip, they hoped to heal more than just one woman, said Col. Mack Blanton, commander, Task Force Medical Falcon.

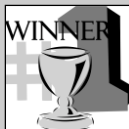
The World Medical Association's Declaration of Geneva states, "I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient."

While physicians in Kosovo generally recognize their ethical obligation to treat all patients equally, most Kosovo Serbians are afraid to go to Albanian doctors,

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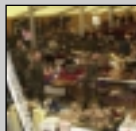
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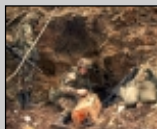
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Wanted

The Falcon Flier wants your stories -- award ceremonies, events, activities, or human interest news. All units from Camps Bondsteel, Able Sentry and Monteith are invited to submit information for publication. While we may not be able to run every story because of space limitations, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Office with your ideas, news and comments at:
(DSN) 781-5200 or 782-7186
or e-mail us at falconci@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

Falcon Flier

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And the winner of the contest is....

The following are the winners of the Equal Opportunity "Dream of Today," Essay Contest. Each person will receive a \$50 gift certificate from AAFES.

Tech. Sgt. J. T. Boss **Combat Weather Operations**

As we celebrate the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, we cannot forget or dilute his efforts toward the implementation of a congressional act by relegating it down to solely a "black versus white" issue. Granted, civil rights in the United States has made tremendous strides during my short life, but I still find it unfathomable that the voting situation with regards to African-Americans ever existed at all, especially with the 15th constitutional amendment set in place at that time! In a sermon given by Dr. King in 1954 during the genesis of the post-war civil rights movement, he decided to give his life "to something eternal." How painfully prophetic those words would prove to be.

Capt. Albert Wang **HHD, 793d MP Bn.**

"I am living Dr. King's dream today. As the son of two low-income immigrants who searched for an education in this country, I was lucky to have the opportunity I received. My parents are part of the dream, coming to a country we they could be judged by what they do and not by who they are. I've taken the opportunity to shoot for something good and never looked back. I took the best the New York City public school system had to offer and worked my tail off with that opportunity. I was fortunate to have a fair chance at getting into a college and worked my tail off with that opportunity. I was lucky to have an equal chance to become a commissioned officer in the US Army and am working my tail off with that opportunity. This is only because people believed in Dr. King's dream and lived Dr. King's dream. Today I will carry his dream into tomorrow."

Private 1st Class Emily M. Adams **22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

"Nevertheless it wasn't until I was in late high school when I would sit down with Auntie Eye nearly every day and demand she tell me stories of her younger days living in the South. She'd tell of hopes on hold, dreams shattered, and the iron will that kept her alive during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. She used to explain to me how her childhood dreams sharply adapted to the era. She told me how she always desired to attend nursing school, making her the first person in her family to find a way to finish college. And how so quickly with racism, segregated schools, and her family's hostile opinions, her scope of the world shrank to just wanting to have one day in life when no one

looked at her and scoffed for having ambition."

Sgt. Edward A. Washington **HBB, 4th Bn., 27th FA Rgt.**

A dream is a goal to be reached or a vision of your destiny. Whether it is a little girl who wants to be a doctor when she grows up or a grown man desiring peace for all men, they both have one thing in common. That one common denominator is that they both have dared to dream. They dared to reach for what they hold so dear, and that is the materialization of their dream.

Dr King demonstrated this expectation by befriending the very ones who attempted to snuff out his dream. The only way you will get someone to catch the vision of your dream and follow it with like passion is to be a loving example of what you want him or her to believe in.

Staff Sgt. Barry Lenderman **HHD, 793d MP Bn.**

For centuries people have come to America proclaiming their dreams and hopes for the future. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. Our nation is living out that dream today by holding on to the truths that "all men are created equal. We can't say that prejudice doesn't exist still, but we are living the dream. For the most part "the crooked places" have been "made straight."

We have a new dream to look forward to today. That new dream is that all nations big and small might come together as one peaceful world. We, here in Kosovo, are helping right now as peacekeepers to be one step closer to this dream today. I would ask that each and everyone put their personal thoughts and regards behind them and join together and help make this dream today become reality not just for yourself, but for our future.

1st Lt. Brett Rubio **HBB, 4th Bn., 27th FA Rgt.**

His illustration of changing hatred to love by preaching inclusiveness and embodying nonviolence reminded all citizens of our highest potential. In a time marked by brutality, he understood that the pathology of hatred could divide our country and lead to self-destruction.

These larger than life achievements fired the imagination of oppressed people throughout the world and stood as a shining example that bigotry and hatred could be overcome without perpetuating violence. We learned from him that facing injustice involves patience, love, and steadfast dedication. The only difference now is that we have the choice to carry on with King's gospel of promoting peace or let hatred continue to consume us.

King's resistance against repression should not be a lesson easily forgotten. Because of him the doors of a just society opened for many.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, recently traveled to Mogila in an effort to help the community with their trash problems. Using unit equipment, soldiers helped clean up the sides of the road inside the village. Cleanup lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CG takes some time out for the soldiers

How could Multinational Brigade (East) accomplish the Kosovo mission without the Multinational Forces? The answer is very simple. We couldn't! The combined efforts of Greece, Jordan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and the Ukraine are pivotal to the success of the mission.

Each Army brings to Kosovo a piece of its culture and national identity. Each Army provides MNB-(E) with greater diversity and valued experience. I challenge each member of the brigade to get to know at least one soldier from another country. Build a bond of friendship to complement and strengthen the alliance between all the nations represented.

Our allies demonstrate their commitment everyday by their individual and collective contribution to our success. These nations represent more than 2,500 soldiers of the MNB-(E) forces.

But their true value exceeds the sum of their parts. The Greek forces, beyond their individual professionalism, bring a tremendous knowledge of the regional culture which Americans lack. The Jordanians add a Special Forces capability to our sector allowing U.S. Special Forces to focus on other missions such as reconnaissance. The Jordanians are true professionals equal to the task at hand. The Lithuanian forces, although small in number, bring the same professionalism to our team and add the weight of another nation into a



Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Quinlan

combined effort in Kosovo. Polish soldiers have met every test they have faced here in Kosovo. Their discovery of arms caches in their sector are but one of many examples of their major contributions here in Kosovo.

Russian soldiers are serving shoulder-to-

shoulder with US soldiers along the boundary with the Presevo Valley to interdict the operations of the UCPMB. The United Arab Emirates provide the additional lethality and mobility of six Apache attack helicopters with experienced and talented aviators at the controls. Additionally, their Special Forces soldiers add to the talented pool of special operators so important to the success of our ground operations. And finally, the Ukrainian soldiers teamed so well with the Polish and Lithuanian soldiers are the equal professionals of any other nation in our task force. And they bring four MI-8 helicopters with professional and experienced crews to our aviation task force in support of KFOR.

Now if this itself wasn't enough, remember that each of the seven nations serving in our task force is using a second language, English, to communicate with us. Their collective list of accomplishments is too great to list in this article. But, I don't need to do this because each of you no doubt have seen and experienced the energy and professionalism our multinational soldiers bring to MNB-E. It is an honor to serve beside such superb soldiers in our combined efforts to create a brighter future for Kosovo. I am thankful everyday for the enormous contributions of all the nations' soldiers in MNB-E. Together there is no mission we cannot accomplish!

Iron Soldiers-Dignity and Respect!

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Task Force Falcon's Place on the Web

Falcon's force

How do you feel about being part of a multinational operation?



"I think it's a great opportunity to work with soldiers from other countries and learn their cultures and how they operate."
1st Lt. Robert Bohr, shop officer, Co. B, 47th FSB.



"Wonderful training experience. It gives an overview on how our job really is in relation to the total U.S. mission."
Sgt. Oliver T. Oseanto, utility helicopter mechanic, Co. D, 1st Bn., 501st Avn. Rgt.



"I find it a tremendous opportunity to learn about other cultures by working in this type of environment."
Spc. Melissa Thom, civil affairs specialist, 432nd CA Bn.



"Being a father of three daughters and seeing some of what is going on, I couldn't imagine them in this type of situation with out anyone to help."
Sgt. 1st Class Tim W. Wallace, career counselor, HHC, 2nd Bde.



"It's great not only to work with other countries but also to help those in need."
Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Rowen, maintenance control sergeant, Co. B, 47th FSB.



"I think it's an excellent opportunity for soldiers of different countries to work toward American, UN and NATO interests."
Staff Sgt. Charles H. Black, JVB NCOIC, 69th Chem. Co., 4th Bde., 1st AD.

MEDCAP continued from Page 1...

provided by the treatment platoon and the KPC provided the ambulance.

"The people of Kosovo are seeing the cooperation between the KPC and KFOR," said Bytyci, who serves as 106th RTG's medical company commander and doctor for the KPC. "We could not handle this MEDCAP on our own today but we would like to do it by ourselves one day."

Maj. Branson Rector, 47th FSB executive officer, proposed the idea for a joint MEDCAP during a planning meeting in October with the FSB from the previous task force rotation. Branson forwarded the idea to the Joint Implementation Commission, which oversees the training and activities of the KPC, who then gave the battalion the green light, according to Lt. Col. Heather Ierardi, commander, 47th FSB.

The battalion assumed the logistical mission for Task Force Falcon in early December and conducted two reconns of Uggmana after Christmas, one with a doctor from the KPC. The 106th RTG medical company nominated Uggmana for the MEDCAP said Ierardi. The town does not have a doctor and no means for medical care and the KPC determined there was a real need in the town. The village is isolated and leaves many of the residents in need of basic medical care.

Another issue hindering appropriate medical care is the access to and from the village. The village sits atop a hill 10 miles southwest of Ferizaj/Urosevac. The road leading to the village is narrow and requires four-wheel drive for access in the winter.

The future healthcare clinic in Uggmana is far from complete. The building is finished but has no electricity. Construction started eight months ago but as of yet, has not been staffed with a doctor, said Ierardi.

Work with the 106th RTG medical company will continue after this mission.

All in all, Branson's idea from three months ago went a long way in helping out the townspeople here.

"I enjoy missions like this," said Spec. Vernon Badua, transportation operator from the 47th FSB. "It gives me a chance to interact with the locals. It's not something I thought I would be doing when I first came in the service. It's a good surprise and makes me glad for the things that I have."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Swartz

An Uggmana citizen gets her blood pressure taken as part of her examination during a recent joint U.S. and KPC MEDCAP. She was complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath.

Surgery continued from Page 1...

Blanton said.

TF MedFalcon arranged for the procedure to take place at the Gjilan/Gnjilane hospital, located in a predominantly K-Albanian town. Since the hospital employs only K-Albanian doctors and nurses, KFOR is working to overcome the [K-Serbian] perception that they are unwanted at the hospital, he said.

"Healthcare transcends race, religion and ethnicity," he added.

Stanomirovic, 71, fell and broke her hip about five months before the operation. After two months in a cast, the hip didn't heal and she wasn't able to walk.

"I don't care what doctor stops my pain," Stanomirovic said.

The surgery will restore her hip function so she can walk again without pain, said Maj. John Bailey, orthopedic surgeon, TF Med Falcon. Medical personnel at Camp Bondsteel will provide follow up care for Stanomirovic, he added.

"We do the job because we are doctors," said Rrahwan Hajdari, the K-Albanian orthopedic surgeon who assisted Bailey.

"We don't care [if a patient is] Serbian or Albanian, it is all the same," he said.

The surgery was the first orthopedic operation for a K-Serbian in Gjilan/Gnjilane since



Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Spradell

Spec. Aaron Gashepain, orthopedic technician, TF MedFalcon, helps Dragica Stanomirovic, 71, into a bed.

the war in Kosovo ended, Blanton said.

"Now [K-Serbians] will come in," said Hajdari, who's pleased to have Bailey help out in his operating room almost every Tuesday.

Discussing the possibility of hiring K-Serbian doctors, Hajdari said he was open to the idea.

"Serbian doctors are welcome here," he said.

After the operation, both doctors said the surgery was successful.

"Stanomirovic's prognosis is very good," Bailey said.

Fire, fire

MNB(E) and UNMIK team up to give new truck to Kacanik

**Story and photos by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Multinational Brigade (East) and United Nations Mission in Kosovo have combined efforts to equip and train a 13-person firefighting crew for the municipality of Kacanik.

The 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion worked with the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion to procure the truck and provide training.

"Last summer there was a problem with fire outbreaks in Kacanik," said Maj. Richard Pilat, logistics chief, POLUKRBAT. "With no firefighting facilities, we were unable to help."

The municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac, which is 30 kilometers from Kacanik, is the closest fire department with the capability to assist in emergencies. Fire assistance took no less than 30 minutes, Pilat added.

Not having the proper resources to fight fires, the safety of the community during fires is dependent on this aid, said Pilat.

To fill this need, MNB(E) provided Kacanik with a new fire truck, the foundation for the new firehouse and a crew to man the equipment, said Maj. Austin F. Branch, chief of information operations.

Training was conducted in December 2000 - January 2001, teaching the 13 firefighters various techniques of fire safety and



firefighting procedures.

The fire chief was hired by UNMIK. The new fire chief was the former fire chief of Ferizaj/Urosevac Fire Department, said Maj. Barbara R. Wilke, team leader, 432nd CA Bn., in Kacanik.

In addition to the firefighting assistance, MNB(E) has provided a variety of assistance to Kacanik to strengthen the community, Wilke said.

A school in Doganaj was reopened recently after renovations. Repairs included replacing floors, walls, electrical wiring, ceilings and the roof.

"Kacanik is a poor area with a high unemployment rate," Wilke said. "To address this problem, Task Force Falcon sponsors seminars for local businessmen in an attempt to stimulate economic growth creating employment opportunities."

"The people of Kacanik have only had good relations with



Top: Spc. Jamal Carter, civil affairs specialist, 432nd CA Bn., opens the door to the firetruck donated to the municipality of Kacanik. Above: Members of the POLUKRBAT, 432nd CA Bn and officials from Kacanik stand in front of the newly donated firetruck.

KFOR and are very happy and grateful for the help," said Tahir Caka, municipal assembly president in Kacanik.

"This is another good thing KFOR has done to help this municipality with some of its needs," Branch said.



Pfc. Cassandra Ragsdale, an intelligence analyst from HHC, 1st AD, chats with Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert during a congressional delegation visit to Kosovo Jan. 11.

Speaker visits Bondsteel

Task Force Falcon PAO

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Denny Hastert and Sen. (D-Del) Joe Biden met United States troops stationed in Kosovo on Jan. 11.

Biden and Hastert also led delegations that met with about 50 soldiers and civilians from their home states during a lunch at Camp Bondsteel.

"I think it's really good that the Congressional Representatives take time out of their busy schedules to see the job we are doing here in Kosovo," said Pfc. Cassandra Ragsdale, an intelligence analyst from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division. "It boosts morale knowing that other people care enough to come all the way over here."

Hastert also delivered 4,000 phone cards donated by AT&T to the troops.

Education funding changes begin in February

**Story by Master Sgt. Jon Connor
Army News Service**

Soldiers wanting more money for higher education should report to their local education center beginning Feb. 1, the Army has announced.

The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvements Act of 2000, signed into law Nov. 1 (Public Law 106-419), offers soldiers and their family members new options to fund higher education.

"Changes this year will really help soldiers keep up with the higher costs of education," said Lt. Col. George Richon, chief of the Recruiting Resources Branch, Enlisted Accessions Division, under the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

One big change will allow soldiers who are enrolled with the Veterans Education Assistance Program to convert to the much more generous Montgomery GI Bill. VEAP is the education program designed for post-Vietnam era soldiers.

The VEAP program offered a total of \$8,100 to help pay for higher education based on a \$2,700 individual contribution. Critics of the VEAP funding have said it didn't go far enough in helping soldiers meet the ongoing rising costs of education.

The law allowed soldiers who were on active duty and had money in their VEAP accounts on or before Oct. 9, 1996 to convert to the MGIB. There was previously a one-year window to convert.

Out of an eligible 21,707 soldiers in 1996, 10,223 converted to the MGIB, 550 opted not to convert, and 10,934 did not respond during the one-year window.

Now the new law is providing another window for VEAP-era soldiers to convert to MGIB and it allows them to convert even if their account was inactive in 1996.

In order to be eligible to convert under the new window, soldiers must have continuously served on active duty from Oct. 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000.

Those wishing to convert must make an irrevocable election to change to the MGIB; they must withdraw any balance left in their VEAP accounts; and they must make or complete a \$2,700 payment during an 18-month window beginning when they opt to convert to the MGIB, Richon said.

"This is a very good deal for soldiers wanting to continue their civilian education. Soldiers do have time to make the right decision before Oct. 31, 2001," Richon said. "They need to discuss this with the counselors at their education center."

Those eligible and wishing to switch must do so by Oct. 31.

Additionally, the law states no one can receive more than 48 months of benefits between the two programs. And, that the soldier, upon discharge or release from active duty, must receive an honorable discharge.

Another significant change is that new soldiers selecting the Army's Loan Repayment program are also eligible for Montgomery GI Bill benefits, Richon said.

The Army's Education Incentives and Counseling Branch is responsible for issuing implementation guidance to Army Education Centers. Counselors will assist those seeking to convert from VEAP to the MGIB, he said, and also assist soldiers who have participated in the Loan Repayment program.

The new law offers soldiers the option to increase the total benefit amount by allowing them to contribute an additional maximum of \$600 on top of the original \$1,200. With the



Photo by Pfc. Solomon Althoff

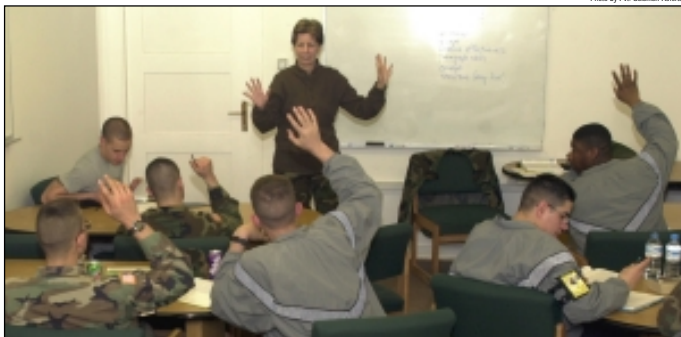


Photo by Pfc. Solomon Althoff

Top: Sgt. Heith Doyle, shift leader, 1st Bn., 4th ADA Rgt, takes notes during a Monday night class. Above: Students raise their hands to answer questions during Debra Griggs' English 101 class.

government's nine-fold contribution, this would mean another \$5,400 would be available for a maximum entitlement of \$28,800.

Those veterans discharged between Nov. 1, 2000 and April 30, 2001 must elect to make eligibility contributions for additional benefits by July 31 of this year.

Soldiers who convert from the VEAP to the MGIB, however, are not eligible for this additional monthly amount.

On Nov. 1, the MGIB entitlements were increased 23 percent. This allows soldiers serving three or more years on active duty to receive \$23,400 or \$650 monthly based on a 36-month full-time school installment plan.

For those serving less than three years, the payment is \$528.

Another change is that educational benefits may now be used for licensing and certification tests needed to enter, maintain or advance into employment in a civilian status. Eligible veterans or family members will now

receive payment of the fee charged for the test or \$2,000 - whichever is less.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will reportedly soon place a message on Leave and Earning Statements that it is available to accept payments for MGIB contributions after Feb. 1.

For more information, log onto the Veterans Administration's internet site at www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-452-4551; the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000; the Veterans Administration public affairs office at 1 (202) 273-6000; or, educational affairs at 1-888-442-4551.

Soldiers in Kosovo who are interested in the new education benefits should contact their base camp education centers.

Additional information may also be obtained on the web at: www.perscom.army.mil/education and www.perscom.army.mil/education/veap.htm

How Bazaar

Task Force Falcon soldiers shop away at base event

*Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Puckett
Camp Bondsteel PAO*

The Camp Bondsteel theater was transformed into a multinational shopping extravaganza Jan. 20-21.

Thousands of Kosovo Force soldiers kept dozens of local vendors busy during Task Force Falcon Rotation 2B's first bazaar.

Vendors hawked rugs, swords, crafts, jewelry and custom T-shirts and the soldiers responded with cash and checks, according to Staff Sgt. James Notine, one of the event organizers from the Camp Bondsteel Mayors office.

"I think it was definitely a success," he said. "People were enjoying themselves and buying local items for themselves and their families. Anything that helps boost morale is a good thing."

It also brought some of Kosovo to the base for soldiers who don't get to leave very often, he said.

Vendors like Ferizaj/Urosevac rug salesman Agron Hysehi said the event was an opportunity to not only sell their wares, but interact with the soldiers.

"It has been going very well here," he said. "The soldiers have been fun. They are good negotiators."

Soldiers from nearly all the Multinational Brigades took advantage of the bazaar.

"It's nice," said Spc. Hal Johnston, a member of the maintenance team from Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division. "I am glad they did this for us, it really breaks up the monotony."



Sgt. 1st Class Darnell McInnis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, Sgt. Rico Signal Company (Combat Camera), and Spc. Hal Johnston, Company B, 47th Forward Support Battalion, shop.



Babushka or katiushka were on sale at the bazaar.



Staff Sgt. Shreese Banks, assistant wardmaster at Task Force MedFalcon and Capt. Tonya Ehler, officer-in-charge of the TF MedFalcon Ground Ambulance section, shop for jewelry.



Sgt. Millacent Giger, an x-ray technician at TF MedFalcon, looks at several rugs from Agron and HJazi Hysehi from Ferizaj.



attalion, Sgt. Ricardo Forde, 55th
t Battalion, shop for lighters.



Spc. Orion Johnson, Task Force Falcon alternate communications security custodian, looks at swords and lighters.



chnician at TF MedFalcon, purchases
azi Hysehl from Ferizaj/Urosevac.



Photo by Pfc. Duane Brown

Sgt. Jesus Galaz, squad leader, and Pfc. Christopher Slusher, demolitions specialist, Co. C, 40th Eng. Bn., assemble wooden supports.



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Christopher Slusher, demolitions specialist, prepares explosives to be placed inside of the cave entrance. Engineers used a combination of C-4 plastic and TNT to crush the rock around the cave.

Engineers cave in mountain

**Story by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Two months ago, a U.S. patrol came upon the cave and discovered the weapons cache. While observing the area, a troop heard a pager going off in the cave and investigated. Inside, troops discovered the cache.

To deter violence, 40th Engineer Battalion troops sealed the entrance to a cave used to house a weapons cache for an undetermined military faction.

"This is a real unusual situation for the 40th Eng. Bn. It's not normal for us to blast through rock like this. So we are learning a lot from this opportunity to get out here and do this mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert A. Winzenried, 40th Eng. Bn.

The 16th Eng. Bn., which was later replaced by the 40th Eng. Bn., sealed the cave entrance. The entrance had since been reopened.

The cave entrance was a hole large enough to allow a 55-gallon oil drum through.

"To neutralize the possibility of the cave being used again for the purpose of housing weapons, the 40th Eng. Bn. was tasked to finish the job," said Staff Sgt. Forrest R. McCann, 2nd platoon

squad leader and convoy commander.

To ensure that the cave is properly sealed, explosives were used implementing counter-force techniques.

Placing explosives on top of the cave entrance and inside the cave entrance as well, pressure from both the top and bottom will meet.

Explosives were placed on top and inside the cave to ensure the lip of it would collapse, causing the cave entrance to collapse, according to Sgt. Jesus Galaz, demolitions noncommissioned officer in charge.

Three holes at the top of the entrance, created by 40-pound shape charges, contained 30 pounds of a TNT and C-4 mixture in each. Three charges containing 12 pounds of the explosive combination were placed inside the cave entrance.

This caused enough of the upper lip of the cave to break off and seal the cave.

"We engage the task in a timely but very orderly manner. By moving swiftly and efficiently, opposing forces don't have a chance to set up," Galaz said.

"Our soldiers are receiving excellent demolitions experience here. This is a first class operation," Winzenried said.

Legal Corner

More than a TV show, it's JAG!

Story by Capt. Geoffrey DeWeese
Task Force Legal Officer

Who are JAGs?

On TV and in the movies JAG attorneys can be seen vigorously prosecuting a case or defending their clients in court. While military justice is a major role of an Army lawyer, it is only one aspect of today's JAG.

The initials JAG stand for Judge Advocate General. As commander of the Continental Army, George Washington first created the position of Judge Advocate General and established the JAG Corps in 1775. Since then, the role of a JAG attorney has expanded, as have the services available to soldiers. Currently the Army JAG Corps is the largest law firms in the United States with attorneys from nearly every state deployed throughout the world.

All officers in the JAG Corps are licensed attorneys. They must be law school graduates who have passed the bar exam and have been accepted to practice before the highest court of any state. They attend a Basic Officers Course at the JAG School in Virginia where they are introduced to many of the unique aspects of practicing law in the military.

What do Judge Advocates do?

Military justice is still one of the primary missions. Trial Counsels are the Army's prosecutors. They advise commanders on how to address violations of the Uniform Code of Military Conduct and represent the government in courts martial. For those facing a criminal charge, whether in the form of an Article 15 or a court martial, the attorneys in the Trial Defense Service are able to provide advice and will advocate for that service member in court. The attorneys in TDS are independent of the local command structure, and while they may share physical location with some JAG offices, they have their own supervisory chain and are independently rated.

Many soldiers find themselves facing legal problems of a non-criminal nature from time to time. Legal assistance attorneys provide free legal help to soldiers on a wide variety of non-UCMJ issues. Some of the military administrative areas soldiers can get assist for are

rebuttals to reports of survey, appeals on NCOERs and OERs, and rebuttals to memorandums of reprimand. Family law issues include spousal support and divorce and separation advice. Every soldier has the opportunity to have a will and powers of attorney prepared. In the area of consumer law soldiers can receive assistance with credit problems and help in dealing with debt collectors.

Each year the JAG Corps opens up Tax Assistance centers where soldiers can get help preparing their income taxes. An attorney is available to answer tax questions and soldiers have the option of e-filing their returns, which will get them a faster refund.

Often commanders and other military organizations will turn to the administrative law attorney for an opinion as to the legal implications of various courses of action. The admin law attorney will research the issue in Army regulations, look up the applicable laws, and then provide advice as to what actions may or may not be allowed and how to comply with the many regulations that may apply to any given situation.

While most soldiers will never meet an Admin attorney, many have met the claims attorney, or his or her representative. Soldiers frequently move and as the years add up, inevitably something may be damaged by a move. If this happens, the Army allows soldiers to file a claim for the damage through the claims office. If the claim is found to be reasonable, the items lost or damaged will be depreciated for any wear and tear and the soldier will be compensated for the loss. The claims attorney may then seek reimbursement from the moving company for the amount the Army paid the soldier.

International and operational law attorneys provide advice on aspect of international laws and treaties that apply to armed forces while stationed overseas and when deployed on various types of military operations. Soldiers stationed in Germany and other countries often fall under a Status of Forces Agreement which is a treaty between the host nation and the United States on how the soldiers, military civilians and their dependants will be treated and what laws apply to them. This provides soldiers benefits such as buying gas more cheaply on post and

avoiding paying many local taxes. When deployed, various international and national laws govern the conduct of soldiers in situations ranging from war to peacekeeping operations such as Task Force Falcon.

Help your lawyer help you!

When you think you have a legal question, before you go to see a legal assistance attorney think about what kind of question you have. First off, if it is involving a military criminal matter, call your local TDS office. If it is a non-criminal matter, take the first steps to address your questions before you come to see an attorney. If you have a pay problem, have you gone to your finance office first? If you have a question about promotions, maybe the personnel office can answer your questions directly. Often, you can take care of your own problems by doing some research of your own.

If you are still unable to reach a solution, in the rear call the JAG office serving your post to make an appointment to see an attorney. In Kosovo, legal assistance is available on a walk in basis at Camp Bondsteel Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Additional times may be provided by appointment. Powers of attorney and notary services are available all day. The JAG offices at Camp Montiehl and Camp Able Sentry also have limited legal assistance services depending on available resources. Tax assistance will be available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. On Saturdays, tax assistance soldiers will take to the road to assist isolated units. Limited legal assistance will also be available. Please call if you wish a visit to your location.

When you come to see your attorney, come prepared. If you received a letter from a court that you need explained, bring in the letter. If you have questions about child support, bring in any past court orders. Your attorney can only help you if you provide him or her with all the information necessary. If you have any questions about what you might need, call ahead. When you come to the tax assistance centers, bring your W2s, any 1099s you may have received, a blank check or check card with your bank's routing number and your account number on it, and social security numbers for all your dependants.

Contact the Camp Bondsteel Legal Assistance office at 781-4012 or visit the office in Building 1340A.

I'm tired of this, I'm gonna make an EO complaint

Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Challenger
Equal Opportunity Advisor

"That's it! I have had it, and I am not going to put up with this anymore! I am going to file an EO Complaint. These are words you might have heard spoken by another member of the military, or may even have been spoken by yourself, when faced with a situation you perceived to be discrimination or sexual harassment. So, then who can file a complaint? Who can I file it with in the Task Force? How do I know if I have a complaint? Who can I talk to?"

The EO complaints processing system addresses complaints that allege unlawful discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender (sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination) and national origin. Attempts should always be made to solve the problem at the lowest possible level within an organization. There are two types of complaints used to address EO

and sexual harassment issues.

An informal complaint is any complaint that a soldier, family member or DA civilian does not wish to file in writing. Informal complaints may be resolved directly by the individual, with the help of another unit member, the commander or other person in the complainant's chain of command. Typically, those issues that can be taken care of informally can be resolved through discussion, problem identification, and clarification of the issues. An informal complaint is not subject to time suspense nor is it reportable. If informal channels do not achieve resolution of the issue the complainant still has the option of filing a formal complaint.

A formal complaint is one that a complainant files in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information on a DA Form 7279-R, Equal Opportunity Complaint Form. All formal complaints require specific actions, are subject to timelines and require documentation of the actions taken. An individual filing a formal complaint using a DA Form 7279-R will specify the alleged concern, provide the names of the parties involved and witnesses, describe the

incident(s)/behavior(s), and indicate the date(s) of the occurrence(s). Soldiers have 60 calendar days from the date of the alleged incident in which to file a formal complaint.

Although the processing of EO complaints through the task force chain of command is strongly encouraged, it will not serve as the only channel available to soldiers to resolve complaints. Commanders will not preclude soldiers from using these channels in accordance with the procedures inherent/established by these task force agencies: (a) Someone in a higher echelon of the complainant's chain of command (b) Equal Opportunity Advisor (c) Inspector General (d) Chaplain (e) Provost Marshal (f) medical agency personnel (g) Staff Judge Advocate (h) mayor or home station chief, Community Housing Referral and Relocation Services Office (CHRRS).

Discuss your concerns with your unit task force EOL/EOR to help you clarify the issues. Seek guidance from your chain of command and involve them, they can not help if you do not let them know there is an issue.

For further information on complaint procedures, or equal opportunity issues, contact the Task Force Falcon EO office at 781-5002.

Medics draw blood during joint training

**Story by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Blood squirted, needles poked and stomachs turned during a recent combat lifesaver course held in Ferizaj/Uresovac.

The 40-hour, five-day course was taught by combat medics from the 40th Engineer Battalion in an effort to share medical techniques used by Task Force Falcon soldiers with members of the Kosovo Protection Corps.

The soldiers' mission was to train 22 KPC members on proper combat lifesaving tasks and improve overall relations with KFOR soldiers, said Staff Sgt. Walter Kirsliis, aid station non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Eng. Bn.

Medics worked with KPC members to teach basic tasks needed to sustain life until medical support arrives, said Spc. Shannon M. Bowden, combat medic, 40th Eng. Bn.

On the first day of classes, KPC members were taught proper applications of pressure dressings, and recognizing and treating possible fractures. The main goal of this class was to ensure KPC members knew how to stop bleeding and prevent further injury, according to Bowden.

Day two of classes taught intravenous injections applications.

"This was the hardest day because they had to practice on each other. After they got over the fear of the needles, everything went smooth," Bowden said. "The goal was for every KPC member to get a successful stick."



A member of the Kosovo Protection Corps hushes onlookers as they gasp at the blood oozing out of his arm while one of his comrades attempts to put an intravenous needle into his right arm.

Day three involved classes on head injuries and shock treatment. Medics taught KPC members how to locate signs of head injuries, focusing on such things as bruising behind the ears, black eyes, clear fluid leaking from the ears and soft spots in the skull, Bowden explained.

"Day four is the most important day of training," Kirsliis said. "Staging a scenario using several

causalities with different injuries, KPC members had to evaluate the causalities and treat them by order of severity."

The final day of training was used to answer any questions KPC members had concerning techniques they had been taught, Bowden said. Upon completion of the course, KPC members received a certificate stating their course certifications.

"This was a real learning experience for me. We not only got a chance to spread our knowledge in a positive learning environment, we were rendered a once in a lifetime chance to get personal with the KPC members and hear first-hand about their pre-war experiences," Bowden said. "They treated us like very important people. The whole experience was great."

AFN Radio

AFN Radio Can be heard
on 88.0 FM.

**Special Show hours
include:**

Balkans Morning Show
6 a.m.-9 a.m.

Country Round-Up
9 a.m.-11 a.m.

80's Lunch
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Today's Alternative
3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturdays:

Balkans Saturday Show
8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Solid Gold Show
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Request lines are open
at 762-5556.**

Movies February Movie Schedule Camp Bondsteel theater

Feb. 1	1930 Small Time Crooks 2130 Me, Myself & Irene	Feb. 9	2000 Two Night Stand! Top 40 Rock
Feb. 2	1930 Godzilla 2000 2000 Book of Shadows	Feb. 10	1930 Rugrats in Paris 2130 Men of Honor
Feb. 3	1930 Charlies Angels 2130 Legend of Drunken Master	Feb. 11	1930 Women on Top 2130 Bait
Feb. 4	1930 Little Nicky 2130 Lost Souls	Feb. 12	1930 Legend of Bagar Vance 2130 What lies Beneath
Feb. 5	1930 Way of the Gun 2130 Dr. T & Women	Feb. 13	1930 Original Kings of Comedy 2130 Space Cowboys
Feb. 6	1930 Little Vampire 2130 Get Carter	Feb. 14	1930 Men of Honor 2130 Rugrats in Paris
Feb. 7	1930 Legend of Drunken Master 2130 Charlies Angels	Feb. 15	1930 Contender 2130 The Cell
Feb. 8	1930 Pay it Forward 2130 The Exorcist		

Chaplains' Corner

Serendipitous situations

**Story by Chaplain
(Capt.) Kenneth R. Sorenson
1st Bn., 35th Amr. Rgt.**

Four times in the past week, delays or chance meetings have resulted in too many coincidences to be merely coincidental. As always, when God does something it doesn't necessarily happen the way we plan it; it's always "serendipity!" You will see what I mean . . .

The first incident happened Monday as I traveled out into sector with our Task Force Information Operation Fire Support Officer, Captain Bennett. We headed out to visit Check Point 75, Outpost Gunner, and a local Serbian town. At CP 75, we met both Russian and US soldiers. The Task Force Chaplain happened to have given me a Russian New Testament, which I was able to give to the Russian officer overseeing the CP. Serendipity . . .

Next we went to OP Gunner to visit more soldiers. Just as we were ready to go, I was introduced to some Polish soldiers guarding the area. I mentioned that I would bring a Catholic Priest later in the week to celebrate Mass for

the U.S. soldiers; and they were welcome to attend. Poland is about 98% Roman Catholic! Serendipity . . .

On the return to Camp Monteith we stopped off in Slovo, a Serbian village, to see our soldiers at the hard sites. While visiting the soldiers, we were notified of a recent kidnappings of four local citizens. As we drove through town, we came upon a local group of forty people. Capt. Donnie Bennett reassured them that KFOR was doing everything possible to get the people returned safely. I had the opportunity to encourage the people and to pray for a safe return of their fellow townspeople. I assured them I would continue to pray until the situation was resolved. Serendipity . . .

The next morning I prepared to go into the Company A sector with the company commander. He and I spoke at breakfast and left for a mayor's meeting. While at the meeting, we were called out: an Apache helicopter had been forced to land in a field located in Co. A area. We drove to the scene immediately. Upon arrival, I was able to speak with the pilots and minister God's peace to them. I wondered how long it would have been for me to reach the scene had

I not been invited by the company commander to travel with him that day. Serendipity . . .

Thursday morning I traveled toward CP 75 with Chaplain (Maj.) Joseph Brando with plans for him conduct Catholic Mass. At CP 75, we were able to speak to soldiers, but most were involved in mission and unable to attend services. We left that location in route to OP Gunner and we were pleasantly surprised when we arrived. The weather was perfect for an outdoor Mass, the generator was shut down for maintenance (thus we could hear), and the Polish soldiers wanted to be a part of the Mass. And so on a hill somewhere in Kosovo, I witnessed God blessing the 14 soldiers who attended with an incredible opportunity to praise the Lord in the midst of gorgeous surroundings. Serendipity . . .

That afternoon, following a short delay at Camp Monteith for lunch, we drove to Koretiste and then toward the Eagle's Nest. Enroute we stopped by to see the Apache crew and the guard force (who were just then changing shifts). Brando and I prayed with the 12 soldiers, thanking God for His protection of the pilots, safety for our families, and the peace KFOR has brought to the land of



Kosovo. It was a "serendipity moment" watching a Catholic soldier receiving the Eucharist, and then joining the other soldiers in reciting the Lord's Prayer!

The previous Task Force Mutt's told us to be patient in all things while here and understand things don't always work out as quickly as we'd like. I certainly learned this week that God uses delays, disruptions, and schedule changes to get us on His timetable. It's when we commit ourselves to God and not our schedules that God can give us those serendipitous moments, because we have a heart that is prepared to receive them.

KFOR Worship Schedule

Camp Bondsteel

Roman Catholic

Sun 0730 South Chapel
Sun 1200 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sun 1900 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Mon 1130 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Tue 1930 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Tue 2000 RCIA - Peacekeepers Chapel
Wed 1130 Mass - South Chapel
Wed 1900 Bible Study - South Chapel
Wed 1930 Bible Study - Peacekeepers Chapel
Thu 1930 Mass/School of Prayer - South Chapel
Fri 1130 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sat 1700 Mass - South Chapel

Protestant

Sun 0900 Service - South Chapel
Sun 0930 Service - Peacekeepers Chapel

Gospel

Sun 1200 Service - South Chapel
Sun 1600 Service - Peacekeepers Chapel
Thu 1800 Prayer - Peacekeepers Chapel
Fri 1900 Joy Night - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sat 2000 Gospel Choir Practice - Peacekeepers Chapel

Islam

Fri 1200 Prayer - South Chapel

Latter Day Saint

Sun 1600 Service - South Chapel
Sun 1700 Sunday School
Mon 1800 Family Home Evening

Jewish

Fri 2000 Service - South Chapel

Other

Sat 1100 Adventist Service - South Chapel
Sun 1900 Praise and Worship - South Chapel

Camp Monteith Services

SUNDAY

0830 LDS Service
1000 Protestant Service
1115 Bible Study
1300 Gospel Service
1600 AA Meeting
1900 Catholic Mass
2000 Contemporary Service

TUESDAY

1900 New Believers Class

WEDNESDAY

1900 Catholic Mass/Inquiry Class

THURSDAY

0800 Catholic Mass
1900 Promise Keepers Bible Study

FRIDAY

1900 Praise and Worship Night

SATURDAY

1800 Gospel Choir Practice
2000 Movie Night

Camp Able Sentry

Sunday

0130 Protestant Service
1300 Spanish Mass
1600 LDS Service
1900 Gospel Service

Tuesday

1900 Gospel Bible Study

Wednesday

2000 Mid-Week Bible Study

Thursday

1900 Prayer Meeting

Friday

1900 Gospel Hour

Saturday

1730 Catholic Mass
1900 Choir Rehearsal

Ukrainian mothers visit children in Kosovo

**Story by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Puckett
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Ukrainian President Leonid Daylovych Kuchma met soldiers and toured their facilities as part of a daylong visit here Jan. 9.

Daylovych also saw operations at Checkpoint Draykovcic.

A group of Ukrainian soldiers also got a special treat with a military delegation arrived a day earlier with 10 mothers and several Ukrainian entertainers.

For many of the mothers it was not only their first trip to Kosovo, but also the first time they'd seen their sons on duty. The mothers arrived Jan. 8 and spent the night at Camp Resa.

They got a chance to see their sons on duty, eat in the dining facility and check out the living conditions here.

They also attended the welcome ceremony for the presidents the next day at Camp White Eagle. Task Force Falcon commander Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Quinlan led the Multinational Brigade (East) delegation to welcome the presidents to the sector.

MNB (E) Joint Visitors Bureau officials provided the escort for the mothers and it was a special mission, according to William Robley, Task Force Falcon protocol officer.

"I thought it was great," he said. "It was



Photo by Pfc. Duane Brown

Moments before departing the POLUKRBAT base camp, a mother bids farewell to her son. They will be reunited after remaining six months of a one-year tour of duty in Kosovo.

very emotional. The mothers were crying when they got off the bus, and the soldiers were trying to be disciplined and tough, but they broke down and hugged their moms. It was

really nice to see."

Both presidents left Kosovo after the ceremony. The mothers got another special treat returning home aboard Kuchma's plane.

U.S. and Russia collaborate peacekeeping efforts

**Story by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

The U.S. and Russian Armies have combined forces in an effort to improve peacekeeping operations and relations between the two countries.

Working together at checkpoint 75 near Kamenica, the soldiers maintain the flow of traffic coming in and out of Kosovo.

"We are here to support the Russian soldiers while they maintain this traffic control point," said Pfc. Gregory W. Nugent, tanker, C Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment. "We monitor traffic moving in and out of Kosovo."

The patrol stops cars to ensure occupants' credentials are in proper order, said Sgt. 1st Class Steve A. Gilbert, platoon sergeant, Co. C, 1st Bn., 35th Amr. Rgt. U.S. soldiers follow Russian standards with the guidance from our higher command. Guards concentrate on cars containing individuals between the ages of 16 and 40 explained Nugent. This is the military age group, he added.

"We check cars for weapons, contraband and anything the car operator is not supposed to have," Nugent said.

"It's real interesting learning about Russian culture and exchanging experiences," Nugent



Photo by Sgt. Thelma Spensard

Pfc. Demetrius Campbell, petroleum supply specialist, a Russian soldier and Spc. Rome Cazzo, petroleum supply specialist, HHC, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Rgt., stop a car at Checkpoint 75 Jan. 22.

said. One thing that surprised U.S. soldiers was that the Russian Army has airborne tankers.

The U.S. and Russian soldiers have learned to work well together.

"There are no problems at all," said 1st Lt. Sakhnov Vitali, chief of Checkpoint 75, 13th Tactical Group, Russian Army.

Army forces also work together patrolling the village of Kamenica, a town whose popula-

tion consists of both Albanian and Serbian people.

"Here we work in cooperation with Russian forces to maintain freedom of movement along roads inside Kosovo so everyone feels safe traveling," said 1st Lt. Stephanie A. Bagley, 793rd Military Police Battalion. "Together we monitor any type of violence that may occur."

If the situation warrants, an increase in patrols are assigned to

the problem area, Bagley added.

"I receive missions from the 13th TG," Bagley said. "They brief me on what they want the MPs to do on patrol missions and we execute."

Within the last month, crime in this area has declined, Bagley said. The bulk of complaints have revolved around issues concerning living conditions.

"Things out here at Checkpoint 75 have been great," Gilbert said. "There have been no problems working together with the Russian Army."

EOD called to assist emergency operation

**Story by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Explosive Ordinance Disposal soldiers assisted doctors in a Macedonia university hospital to remove a rocket propelled grenade motor from a policeman's leg Jan. 22.

With guidance from the U.S. Embassy, the EOD unit was dispatched to Macedonia and provided technical support to Macedonian doctors to ensure safety for all involved.

"I have been doing this for 16 years and have never seen anything like that before," said 1st Sgt. Lauren Larson, 62nd EOD Company.

At approximately 1 a.m. Jan. 22, armed men fired two RPGs through an open door in a western Macedonian police station.

One person was hit directly in the head by a rocket and killed. The second rocket hit a wall. The motor from the second rocket lodged itself in the leg of police officer in the building.

Two other people were injured in the attack.

The police officer with the RPG motor embedded in his leg arrived at the hospital at 8 a.m. the morning of the attack, Larson said.

At 8:45 a.m. EOD received a call from Maj. Stephen Bradley, a U.S. Army doctor at Camp Able Sentry.

Bradley explained he had received a call from a doctor at the university hospital in Skopje, Macedonia, with an unusual



Doctors examine the x-ray showing where the RPG motor was lodged in the police officers leg before the operation.

problem. One of his patients had been involved in an attack on a police station in western Macedonia, Larson said.

"I was told the hospital staff was frightened and refused to work on the policeman, and the X-ray technicians ran out of the room when he was admitted," Larson said.

The doctors at the hospital

wanted to know if there was anything that EOD could do to help, Larson said.

After receiving the go-ahead for the U.S. Embassy, EOD began to assess the situation in depth, Larson said.

Using the EOD database, Sgt. William Pruitt, EOD team member, determined safe procedures for the removal of the motor. From

the information obtained, the team came up with several possible scenarios they could encounter during the mission, Larson said.

"Upon arrival at the hospital, we met with the staff. Receiving our professional assessment of the situation, they wanted to get to work on the patient as soon as possible," Larson said.

The rocket motor ran from about two inches above his knee to the top of his thigh. EOD explained to the hospital staff the potential hazards of the rocket motor.

Doctors were briefed on which portions to avoid when removing the rocket and the best way to handle the rocket motor while removing it from the leg, Larson said.

"The procedure to remove the rocket motor lasted less than five minutes," said Larson.

The rocket motor was from a Chinese Type 69 RPG, a copy of the Russian RPG-7, Larson added.

"Reaching the conclusion that the rocket posed no hazard, I turned it over to a member of the Macedonian police force," Larson said.

The EOD team left for Camp Bondsteel at 4:30 p.m.

"The patients prognosis is excellent. He received outstanding care. The recovery will include treatment of the wound, plastic surgery including possible skin graft and rehab," Bradley said.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity being in Kosovo. Being able to come here as an EOD soldier and actually get a chance to deal with foreign ordinances that are live and armed," Pruitt said.

Commander releases detainee for funeral

**Story and photo By
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

An Albanian man being held at the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility was temporarily released from custody Jan. 9th to attend his father's funeral in Dobrosin, Serbia.

Multinational Brigade (East) Commander, Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Quinlan established an agreement allowing Begiri Nexhmedin to attend the funeral and return to custody.

"We placed our trust in the detainee to comeback and he did," Quinlan said.

Arriving at the security gate at 7 a.m. on Camp Bondsteel with the body of the deceased father in the car, the family requested to see Nexhmedin, said Lt. Col. James H. Embrey, Task Force Falcon operations officer.

Not being devoid of passion, the Quinlan spoke with the family, Embrey said.

He was escorted to the gate where he was able to visit with his family.

"The family later requested Nexhmedin be allowed to come out of detention to attend the funeral," Embrey said. "In return the family gave their word he would return."

After reviewing his case, it was determined to be a valid request, Embrey said.

"In early December, the Albanian man was detained for illegally crossing the boundary at Checkpoint 65," said Embrey.

It was decided the detainee was of little threat to the safe and secure environment in Kosovo, provided by Kosovo Force, said Embrey.

"This is an occasion where it was the right thing to do," Quinlan said.

The father died the evening of Jan. 7, in Dobrosin, where he and his son reside.

In accordance with Muslim tradition, the deceased father had to be buried by sundown the next day.

"We have to respect the culture of the country we are in," Quinlan said. "Like our core values say, treat others as you want to be treated."

A military convoy took the man to Checkpoint 65 where he was released at 2 p.m. to attend the funeral.

Nexhmedin returned to Checkpoint 65 at 7:15 p.m., 45 minutes early. Military police escorted him back to the detention facility where he remains in custody.



Begiri Nexhmedin is escorted from the detention facility to the convoy by Sgt.s 1st Class Kristyne M. Schroeder and Gregory E. Nager, military policemen, 793rd MP Bn.

"If you don't show some compassion, you run an even greater risk of continuing to alienate more and more people," Embrey said. "This was a great way to do just that."



EgoDog rocks the Bondsteel theater stage Jan. 22 performing current and classic rock songs for a small, but enthusiastic crowd.



EgoDog lead singer Tony Oros belts out "Vaseline" by Stone Temple Pilots.

PUMPIN' ***UP THE*** ***VOLUME***

**EgoDog blasts rock
for Bondsteel crowd**

*Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Puckett
Camp Bondsteel PAO*

A small, but appreciative crowd welcomed the hard-edge sound of EgoDog to the Camp Bondsteel theater Jan. 22.

The band returned the favor and kicked out more than two hours of current and classic rock music.

EgoDog lead singer Tony Oros provided the grit for a performance that spanned three decades of rock. The band opened with two original songs off their album "Words are Kerosene" and followed with selections from Lynard Skinner, Green Day and RadioHead.

The stop at Task Force Falcon was the final one on a tour that took them across Europe from Bosnia to Germany.

"It was great to come out here," Oros said. "We had a great tour."

Oros said visiting soldiers and thanking them for their sacrifices was especially important to him -- his father was a veteran.

"These guys give up a lot and are really making a difference over here," Oros said. "It's nice to say thanks and entertain them for a few hours. It's the least we can do."

It was an effort that the crowd appreciated, according to Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson, training noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"I thought it was pretty awesome. I liked some of the older rock n'roll music," he said. "It was something different."



Oros passes out information on the band. He and the other members signed CDs and exchanged stories with soldiers during breaks and after the show.